

DOCKET NO.: FCI-2648/C3193
Application No.: 10/015,985
Office Action Dated: January 9, 2004

PATENT

Amendments to the Drawings

None.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-4 and 8-14 will be pending in the application. Claims 1, 11, and 12 are independent claims. Newly added claim 13 and 14 depend from claim 12. No new matter has been added by the amendment.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 1-4 and 8-10 have been allowed.

Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected over U.S. patent no. 5,072,201 (“Devaux”). Devaux discloses a dielectric strip 2 having slots 21 for keeping a conductive strip 1 of a microwave transmission line at equal distance between two parallel planes 3, 4 (Devaux at col. 2, ll. 4-20). As the Examiner recognizes, Devaux does not explicitly teach that the structure includes a plurality of transmission lines (Office action at § 3).

By contrast, Applicant’s claims 11-13 recite “a plurality of conductor matched impedance transmission line elements.” Additionally, Applicant has hereby amended claims 11 and 12 to explicitly recite a spacer disposed between the plurality of transmission line elements and a ground plate. Unlike the dielectric strip 2 disclosed by Devaux, the recited spacer maintains the line elements at a first distance from the ground plate and at a second distance from one another.

Applicant respectfully submits that Devaux does not teach or suggest such a spacer. As Devaux does not disclose a plurality of line elements, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to modify the dielectric strip of Devaux to maintain a plurality of line elements at a distance from a ground plate and from one another.

Newly added claim 14 recites a spacer that is disposed between the line elements and only a single ground plate. Applicant respectfully submits that one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to modify the system of Devaux to include such a spacer because Devaux teaches only a dielectric strip 2 that positions a conductive strip at equal distance between two parallel planes. In contradistinction to the claimed invention, Devaux does not teach or suggest using a spacer to maintain a distance between a plurality of line elements and a single ground plate, the distance being reflective of a characteristic impedance of the system.

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims patentably distinguish over the teachings of the cited art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully

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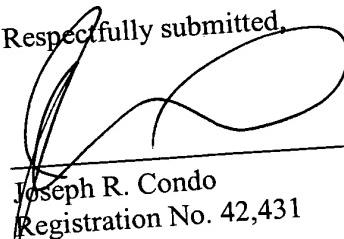
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requests reconsideration of the application and a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-4 and 8-14. Should the Examiner believe that the claims are not allowable for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues and further the application to issuance.

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Respectfully submitted,


Joseph R. Condo
Registration No. 42,431

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439